

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 311034Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2135

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

VIENTIANE 8026

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SNAR, TH

SUBJ: CHATCHAI ON CHINESE IRREGULAR FORCES AND BURMESE DISSI-
DENT GROUPS IN THAILAND

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE
MARCH 28. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS
REMARKS ON THE CHINESE IRREGULAR FORCES AND BURMESE DISSIDENT
GROUPS IN THAILAND.

REPORTER: BEFORE YOU GO WHAT MOVE WILL YOU MAKE IN REGARD TO
REMNANTS OF THE KMT 93RD ARMY?

CHATCHAI: THESE SOLDIERS ARE VERY OLD, DATING BACK TO WORLD
WAR II, AND BY THIS TIME THEY MUST BE IN THEIR SIXTIES. BUT
WHEN WE CHASE FOREIGN TROOPS OUT OF OUR COUNTRY, HOW CAN WE
CONCENTRATE ON AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES ONLY. ANY AND ALL
FOREIGN TROOPS WHICH ARE HERE MUST BE INCLUDED ALSO. BUT
ALIENS WHO HAVE COME AND TAKEN POLITICAL ASYLUM IN OUR COUNTRY,
OR WHOSE IDEALS CONFLICT WITH THOSE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT,
SHOULD LIVE HERE PEACEFULLY, NOT FORM THEMSELVES INTO
AN ARMY OR DEPICT IN ANY WAY THAT THEY ARE SOLDIERS
ATTACHED TO ANY ARMY. OTHERWISE, HOW CAN THEY BE ALLOWED
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TO REMAIN IN OUR COUNTRY. THAILAND MUST SAFEGUARD ITS

SOVEREIGNTY.

REPORTER: HAVE WE HELD ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
TAIWAN GOVERNMENT?

CHATCHAI: I AM MAKING MOVES SUBJECT BY SUBJECT. PRIORITY
MUST BE GIVEN TO CAMBODIA AT PRESENT, SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH
THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES AND BASES, BUT
THE LATTER ARE NO PROBLEM AT ALL BECAUSE WE KNOW THEIR
DESTINATION WHEN THEY ARE WITHDRAWN. THIS MEANS THAT
THEY WILL BE DEFINITELY PULLED OUT. BUT WE DO NOT KNOW
WHETHER OTHER FOREIGN TROOPS WILL PULL OUT. FOR INSTANCE,
KARENS AND OTHER BURMESE MINORITIES CANNOT RETURN HOME
BECAUSE BURMA WOULD COMPLETELY ERADICATE THEM; NEITHER
CAN KMT TROOPS RETURN TO YUNNAN. THE ONLY FOREIGN TROOPS
WHICH CAN RETURN TO THEIR HOME ARE AMERICAN; THEREFORE
IN ANY ACTION TAKEN WE MUST CONSIDER WHAT OR WHO IS OF
USE TO THAILAND. THE INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRY MUST BE
PLACED ABOVE ALL ELSE.

MASTERS

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